Imported coal based projects in Rajasthan

†3310. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Suratgarh and Kota thermal power projects in Rajasthan have been included among the projects using imported coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware that the transportation cost of coal is going to exceed the import cost of coal; and

(d) whether Government is considering to exclude both these projects from the list of projects using imported coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to bridge the gap of 41 Million Tonne (MT) between demand and availability of indigenous coal, power utilities have been advised to import 28.7 MT of coal during the year 2009-10, which is about 7.1% of the total requirement. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL) has been advised to import 0.8 MT coal for its existing units at Kota and Suratgarh, which is about 5.8% of their total coal requirement.

(c) Government is aware of the high cost of imported coal, including its transportation cost. But import of 28.7 MT coal, which is about 7.1% of total coal requirements is also inevitable to avoid loss of generation due to shortage of coal. Blending of imported coal with indigenous coal beyond certain limits is not possible because of technical limitations of the boiler design. All the major power stations in the country, therefore, have to consume their share of the imported coal. Even pithead power stations are consuming imported coal.

(d) No, Sir.

Coal stock at NTPC's plants

3311. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal stocks of power plants under NTPC have been dwindling continuously for the last few months affecting the power generation in these plants;

(b) if so, the details of the requirement of coal and its supply to the power plants under NTPC, month-wise during 2009 and the utilized power generation capacity in this period; and

(c) the reasons for shortage of coal supply and the steps being taken to improve the supply of coal to the power generating plants under NTPC in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal stock at some of the NTPC's power stations, namely Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Sipat has depleted.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.